

Remark

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1-15, 28, 30-31 and 33-42 have been amended. Claims 16-27 and 32 have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-15, 28-31, 33-42 are present for examination.

Withdrawal of Non-Elected Claims

The Examiner has withdrawn claims 10-12, 32, 33, and 37-42 as directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 10-12, 32, 33, and 37-40 are amended to depend from Claim 1 and are accordingly believed to be directed to the same invention as Claim 1. Claims 41, and 42 depend from Claim 28 which was not withdrawn.

Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The power and ground planes and details of the contact prongs have been deleted. Contact prongs 608, guides 604, and a cable receptacle 610 are shown in the detail views of Figures 6A and 6B. Figures 6A, 6B, 7A, 7B, 8A, and 8B are described in paragraph 37 as showing an integrated cable latching mechanism. Accordingly, the entire system shown as mounted to the substrate 506 is an example of a latch. A cable latch or lid 902 is also shown in Figure 9. The integrated cable latching mechanism is a more specific view of the cable connector 308. This is alluded to in paragraph 39.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection*Trobough et al.*

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 7-9, 31 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Trobough et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,347,946 ("Trobough"). Trobough shows a socket with a connector 208, 408, 508. The connector is not described in any particular detail. At Col. 3, lines 12 et seq. cable connector is an edge connector and, in other embodiments, top portion 206 [not connector 208] is a cable terminating point, and a cable is directly attached to top portion 206 [rather than to connector 208]. In the example of Figure 6, the sockets are interconnected by a membrane 606. The membrane is either flexible or rigid and examples include glass epoxy, flexible circuit board, and rigid flex circuit board. There is no mention of cable connectors or cables for the example of Figure 6.

In the present application, as recited in Claim 1, a socket includes a cable receptacle integrated into the socket that has "guides to assist in guiding a cable into engagement with the cable receptacle, and an actuator lever pivotally attached to the socket operable to retain a cable in the cable receptacle." Such a configuration allows a cable to be attached and removed from the socket just as an IC package can be attached and removed from the socket. This provides a great improvement in the serviceability of a system using a socket constructed in accordance with Claim 1. The present invention may also allow lower cost cables to be employed as compared to many common cable connectors, that require special sockets on the connecting end of the cable.

Further distinctions between the present invention and Trobough are brought out in e.g. claims 5 and 6. In Claim 5, the power signals and the ground signals are routed through the socket to the motherboard and the I/O signals are routed through the socket to the cable receptacle. As mentioned in the present application in paragraph 43, this may result in higher quality I/O signal

paths. As mentioned in Claim 6, the I/O signals are routed through the socket to the cable receptacle and are not routed to the motherboard. This is not suggested in Trobough in which the cable connector is used for test purposes and therefore the connections are likely to be duplicated in the connections with the motherboard.

As a result of these and further distinctions, not specifically discussed herein, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-13 are allowable over the cited reference. Claims 33-40 depend from Claim 1 and are believed to be allowable on similar grounds, among other reasons. Claim 28 is believed to be allowable on the same grounds as Claim 1 and Claims 29, 30, 41, and 42 depend from Claim 28 and are believed to be allowable on similar grounds, among other reasons.

The other references cited by the Examiner do not provide any suggestion to provide the combination of socket and cable connector as recited in Claim 1 and the other claims. Narozny (USPN 4,257,028) shows self-piercing pins but is directed to attaching DIP component into a socket.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

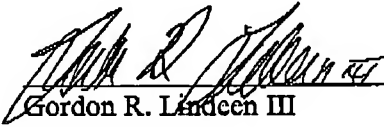
Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for a one month extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension. Charge our Deposit Account.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 11/17/04


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